

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A portable element comprising:

a proximity determination apparatus device operative to determine a distance of the portable element from a specified location and to produce a signal indicative of the distance; and

a processor comprising a clock, the processor receiving the signal and being operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with at least one of the following authorization parameters:

at least one defined period of time; and

said a defined distance from ~~[[a]]~~ said specified location, ~~[[;]]~~

~~at least one defined type of transaction;~~

~~at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and~~

~~at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable element,~~

wherein the processor is operative to authorize use of the portable element up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit varies between a maximum use limit and a minimum use limit and includes a range of non-zero use limits determined as a monotonically decreasing function of at least one of the following:

an ~~[[the]]~~ elapsed time since ~~a predetermined~~ said defined period of time; and

the distance indicated by the signal.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the processor is operative to authorize use of the portable element in accordance with a predefined function of at least two of the authorization parameters.

Claims 17 - 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the portable element comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment.

Claim 21 (original): A portable element according to claim 20 and wherein the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (original): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the authorization parameters are based, at least in part, on authorization parameter defining information, and also comprising:

authorization input apparatus operative to receive the authorization parameter defining information.

Claim 25 (original): A portable element according to claim 24 and wherein the authorization input apparatus comprises input authentication apparatus operative to authenticate the received authorization parameter defining information and to reject non-authentic received information.

Claims 26 - 41 (cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A portable device comprising:

an input apparatus device operative to receive a user-identifying input and at least one user selectable use limitation from a user of the portable device;

a control user identity unit operative to store information identifying a control user;

user determination apparatus operative to determine whether the user is an authentic control user based, at least in part, on the user-identifying input and on the information stored in the control user identity unit;

proximity determination apparatus operative to determine a distance of the portable element from a specified location and to produce a signal indicative of the distance; and

a processor comprising a clock, the processor receiving the signal and being operative to limit use of the portable device in accordance with the at least one user selectable use limitation if the user is determined to be an authentic control user by the user determination apparatus,

wherein the use limitation comprises at least one of the following:

at least one defined period of time;

~~a defined~~ said distance from [[a]] said specified location, and
[[:]]

~~at least one defined type of transaction;~~

~~at least one type of transaction meeting a predefined criterion; and~~

~~at least one authorized person authorized to use the portable device; and~~

the processor is operative to limit use of the portable device up to a quantitative use limit, and

the use limit varies between a maximum use limit and a minimum use limit and includes a range of non-zero use limits determined as a monotonically decreasing function of at least one of the following:

an elapsed time since said defined period of time a
~~predetermined time; and~~

the distance indicated by the signal.

Claims 43 - 45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the portable device comprises a control device for controlling electronic equipment, and

the control device comprises a television remote control device.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input ~~apparatus~~ device comprises a keyboard.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a voice input device.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the input device comprises a biometric sensor.

Claim 50 (previously presented): A portable element according to claim 15 and wherein the monotonically decreasing function comprises a non-linear function.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A portable element according to claim 50 and wherein the non-linear function comprises an inverse-square function.

Claim 52 (cancelled)

Claim 53 (cancelled)

Claim 54 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 42 and wherein the monotonically decreasing function comprises a non-linear function.

Claim 55 (previously presented): A portable device according to claim 54 and wherein the non-linear function comprises an inverse-square function.